

Damascus Full Year Fellows 2009-2010

Rodrigo Adem is currently a PhD student at the University of Chicago in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, majoring in Islamic Thought. He studies early Islamic sectarianism. Previously he has studied Arabic at Qasid in Amman, Jordan as well as Cairo, Egypt.

Katherine Dunn completed her JD and MA in Arab Studies in May 2009 at Georgetown University, with a focus on refugee issues and international public interest law. Throughout her graduate studies, she interned with organizations in Beirut, Geneva, and Istanbul, as well as the Center for Applied Legal Studies at Georgetown. Katherine received her BA from Emory University in 2002 and was a Fulbright fellow in Fes, Morocco from 2002 to 2003. After improving her Arabic this year with CASA, she plans to work in the field of refugee advocacy and support.

Emilie Durand-Zuniga is currently an M.A. candidate in Arabic Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. In 2006, she graduated from Brigham Young University with a B.A. in Linguistics and Italian. She is interested in Semitic syntax and morphology, Arabic sociolinguistics, and Teaching Arabic as a Second Language. After completing CASA, she plans to go back to UT to complete her degree, and hopefully continue on with a PhD in Arabic linguistics and literature.

James Fallon graduated in 2009 from Middlebury College with a BA in political science. He has studied Arabic abroad in Morocco, Syria, and Oman, and has completed coursework on political science and history at the University of Paris I la Sorbonne in France. His interests include Middle Eastern politics and US foreign policy.

Reed Fry received his M.A. in May 2009 from Georgetown University's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, where much of his research focused on the modern literature of the Arab World. He hopes to pursue a career in diplomacy.

Ketan Gajria graduated from Tufts University last year with a Bachelor's of Science in Psychology and then moved to Damascus where he has been studying Arabic at the IFPO Institute since June, 2008. An avid photographer, he has captured scenes from all over Syria as well as Jordan, Turkey, Morocco, Lebanon, and Egypt.

Peter Glanville is a doctoral student in Arabic Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. He is interested in Arabic syntax and phonology, as well as Arabic sociolinguistics. He became interested in Arabic after spending some time in the Middle East teaching English. After graduating in 2025 he hopes to teach Arabic and Arabic linguistics at a university in America or Britain.

Alexandra Gordon graduated this year with a BA in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations from Yale University, where she wrote her senior thesis on modern Arabic translation. Previously she has studied Arabic at the University of Yarmouk in Jordan. In future she plans to pursue Greco-Arabic studies in graduate school.

Graham Griffiths graduated from the University of Washington in 2008 with a B.A. in Philosophy and Economics. During his time at UW, he studied Arabic and spent six months at the American University in Cairo. He has spent the last few months interning with the Middle East Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. After completing CASA, he hopes to continue to pursue his interests in Arab political thought and political economy.

Bethany Kibler is an MA student at Harvard's Center for Middle Eastern Studies. Her research focuses on diaspora, refugee and immigrant communities in the Middle East and Europe. Prior to coming to Harvard, Bethany studied Comparative Literature and Philosophy at Pomona College. After completing CASA, Bethany will conduct fieldwork in Syria before returning to CMES.

Paul Love graduated with a BA in History and Religious Studies from Western Kentucky University in 2007. His research interests are Kharijites, Ibadism and Islamic Heresiology. After completing CASA, he hopes to enter a graduate program in Near Eastern Studies.

Alexander Ortiz graduated this year from Brown University with a BA in Comparative Literature: Translation and Middle East Studies. He spent a year abroad in Egypt studying Arabic. He is especially interested in contemporary and experimental Arabic literature, and plans to pursue a PhD in Comparative Literature after completing the CASA program.

Emily Pollokoff graduated this year from Emory University with a B.A. in Middle Eastern & South Asian Studies and Linguistics, with additional minor concentrations in Arabic and Hindi. She is interested in everything from bhakti poetry to Mauretanian rap, so is grateful for the opportunity to sort out all the curly scripts between them by focusing on Arabic for a year. After CASA, she hopes to pursue an advanced degree, begin a career in service and education, and finally learn how to cook a mean tagine.